
Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)

Public Health & Safety, Adaptation Planning and

Implementation Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 11 June 2020

Meeting Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm
EST

Meeting Location: Online
(Zoom meeting)

ATTENDENCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Heather Aaron	Deputy Commissioner	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Chris Bellucci	Monitoring Program Supervisor	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	
Todd Berman	Manager of Environmental Programs & Projects	United Illuminating	Y
Laura Bozzi	Director of Programs	Yale University, Yale Center on Climate Change and Health	
Tasheenah Brown	Deputy Executive Director	Operation Fuel	
Dean Caruso	Executive Director, Support Services & Sustainability	Yale New Haven Hospital	
Mindy Chambrelli	Sanitarian	Darien Health Department	
Steve Civitelli	Director of Health	Wallingford Health Department	
Amanda Clark	Environmental Analyst	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Ken Dumais	State Hazard Mitigation Officer	Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland	
Caroline Dumont	Public Psychiatry Fellow	Yale University	Y
Mariana Fragomeni	Assistant Professor	University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural	
Betsy Gara	Executive Director	Connecticut Water Works Association and Connecticut Council of Small Towns	
Cynthia Greene	Deputy Director	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England	
Laura Hayes	Epidemiologist	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Christine Kirchhoff	Assistant Professor	University of Connecticut Department of Civil and	
Sarah Lowe	Assistant Professor	Yale University, Yale School of Public Health	Y
Arie Manangan	Health Scientist	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Climate and Health	
Diane Mas	Chief Resilience Officer	Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.	Y
Lori Mathieu	Public Health Section Chief	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Anne McWilliams	Environmental Scientist	EPA Region 1	
Mark Mitchell	Associate Professor	George Mason University, Center for Climate Change Communication	Y
Goudarz Molaei	Agricultural Scientist	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station	Y
Jocelyn Mullins	State Public Health Veterinarian	Connecticut Department of Public Health	

Dave Murphy	Manager of Water Resources Planning	Milone & MacBroom	Y
Huan Ngo	Educator, Scientist		Y
Michael Pascucilla	Director of Health	East Shore District Health Department	
Marissa Rivera	Advocate	Disability Rights Connecticut	Y
Robert Scully	Sanitary Engineer	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Jodi Sherman	Associate Professor, Director of Sustainability	Yale University, Yale School of Medicine	
Kirby Stafford	Chief Scientist/State Entomologist	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station	
Ryan Tetrault	Supervising Environmental Analyst	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Brian Toal	Epidemiologist	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Orlando Velazco	Health Equity Director	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Steven Wallett	Sanitary Engineer	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Jeri Weiss	Regional Coordinator, Capacity Development	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England	Y
Kirk Westphal	Water Resources Leader	Brown and Caldwell	
Adam Whelchel	Director of Science	The Nature Conservancy	
Aicha Woods	City Plan Executive Director	City of New Haven	
Joanna Wozniak-Brown	Senior Resilience Planner	Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation	

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Mary-beth Hart	Director, Land and Water Resources	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Y
Brian Thompson	Senior Environmental Planner	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Y
Rebecca French	Director of Office of Climate Planning	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Y
Anne Hulick	Connecticut Director	Clean Water Action	

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Agenda Item(s)

Facilitated by Laura Hayes, CT DPH

- Announcements
 - A revised set of deliverables for all working groups is being developed
 - Biweekly meetings may be extended in length from 1 hour to 1.5 hours
 - A joint recommendation specific to developing a mapping tool for interagency use to address health equity and environmental justice is being considered
 - The first time a joint recommendation is being talked about
 - A representative from our Team is needed on the Science and Technology Working Group
 - Anne Hulick is represented from Science and Technology
 - ADA best practices for Zoom meetings
 - Please state your name before speaking
 - Please keep yourself muted if you are not speaking
 - Health Equity subgroup merging with Equity and Environmental Justice and also merging with other subgroups to ensure equity and inclusion
- Draft Initial Deliverables for GC3, *Rebecca French*
 - Rebecca, new director of Office of Climate Planning
 - Assists Commissioner Dykes in helping move along the process in terms of Executive Order 3, which includes GC3
 - There have been concerns about the overall timeline and concerns about the pandemic affecting things
 - Would like to meet the goal of providing a report by January 15, 2021
 - There has been a lot of work done with resilience planning at the state and local levels
 - 5 Strategies that can be implemented for the governor
 - Strategies are comprised of multiple actions
 - A strategic planning process that builds upon the planning done to date
 - There may be some overlapping recommendations among Working Groups and subgroups
 - This will be an editorial process to take into account different recommendations
 - The goal should be to be implementable and make realistic changes
 - The goals are tied closely to the wording used in Executive Order 3 which has reiterated that recommendations should be implementable
 - Can there be something in writing about the specifics of the recommendations and goals?
 - Executive Order 3 has left the specifications open in terms of what level of recommendations are at
 - However Executive Order 1 is focused entirely on state operations
- Statement of Scope, *Laura Hayes and Lori Mathieu*
 - Skipped this portion and will be discussed further in another meeting

- Mapping Heat Vulnerability of a Community Mental Health population, *Caroline Dumont*
 - Psychiatrist who has working on mental health and climate change
 - Health impacts of extreme heat
 - Climate change is leading to more intense, frequent, and longer lasting heat waves
 - Significant health impact of climate change – European heat wave 2003 led to tens of thousands of excess deaths
 - Cause more deaths annually than all other extreme weather events combined and the number is likely underestimated
 - Does not leave a trail of destruction; deaths are hidden from view; disproportionately effects minorities, low-income, and elderly
 - Urban heat island effect will continue to effect heat-related fatalities
 - Prevention is important to protecting vulnerable populations
 - Very young
 - Elderly
 - Medically ill
 - Connecticut Mental Health Center
 - Affiliated with the department of psychiatry at Yale
 - Provides recovery-oriented mental health services with serious mental illness and substance use disorders
 - Vulnerable populations have been historically marginalized through stigmatization and neglect
 - Heat-related death and mental illness
 - Pre-existing psychiatric illness tripled the risk of mortality according to a meta-analysis
 - More than 50% of deaths during the Wisconsin heat wave had a psychiatric illness
 - Social and Environmental Factors
 - Historic Chicago heat wave of 1995 left 700 dead within several days
 - Race and place increased heat mortality rates
 - Extreme Heat and Mental Illness
 - Medications for psychiatric illness can affect the ability to thermoregulate and can affect the ability to withstand extreme heat
 - Those with mental illness are more likely to have additional medical conditions, barriers to care, and fewer social support
 - Geospatial mapping tool heat vulnerability index for New Haven County
 - Based off a heat vulnerability index done in New York State
 - Used 13 environmental and sociodemographic factors
 - Assessing heat vulnerability of CMHC Patients
 - Created a heat vulnerability index for CMHC catchment area
 - Map of CMHC clients' location
 - Is there a correlation and which census tract carries more risk
 - Four components that comprise a score for heat vulnerability index
 - Social/language
 - Socioeconomic
 - Environmental/urbanicity

- Social isolation/elderly
- Heat vulnerability index correlates significant with location of populations served by CMHC
- Identifies hotspots to help tailor resource allocation
- Tool to help advocate for public health measures to prevent heat related fatalities in mental health populations
- COVID pandemic might create a particular need due to social distancing and people might be more inclined to stay indoors and potentially greater exposure to extreme heat
- Comments
 - Diane Mas: what do you foresee as the scalability for heat vulnerability index
 - Response: the data comes from a state department for local mental health authorities; assume that there is data available for other areas throughout the state; however there might be challenges with pinpoint locations of the vulnerable populations
 - Lori Mathieu: do we anyone in this group who is from the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services? I do not think we have anyone from that group because that is important especially due to climate change issues.
 - Mark Mitchell: is there a temperature maximum for apartments without air conditioning and has that been thought about?
 - Response:

NOTE: Slides and/or presentations are available on GC3 Working Groups web page:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Subcommittee-and--working-groups>

Provide comments to DEEP.Climate.Change@ct.gov

Others in Attendance
Brian Basso
Holly Drinkuth
Edith Pestana